
**COMMUNICATIONS
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – April 26, 2021

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives Communication (a) from Sue Graham-Nutter, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board to the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, dated April 07, 2021, as an example of a letter sent to federal ministries to support the CELA and NNELS public advocacy campaign;
2. receives Communication (b) from Sue Graham Nutter, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board to Mr. Adam Vaughan, M.P., dated April 07, 2021, as an example of a letter sent to 24 local M.P.s to support the CELA and NNELS public advocacy campaign.

April 07, 2021

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board, I'm writing to express our gratitude for the federal government announcement that \$1 million in funding has been restored for the upcoming budget year 2021-2022, meaning there will not be cuts to funding for the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS), or their services for the upcoming year.

However, we urge the federal government to immediately restore sustained, multi-year full funding to these organizations. Public libraries across Canada rely on CELA and NNELS for the necessary reading materials for people with print disabilities including those with vision loss, learning disabilities and physical disabilities. TPL partners with CELA to provide additional accessible collections to customers with print disabilities and professionals who work with people with print disabilities.

The planned future budget cuts will have a devastating impact on CELA and NNELS' ability to produce and distribute accessible reading materials. We know that access to reading materials directly impacts academic and economic success and social inclusion, particularly for the estimated 3 million people across Canada with print disabilities.

Library Board

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Vice Chair

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Andrea Geddes Poole

Councillor Gord Perks

Jonathan Hoss

City Librarian

Vickery Bowles

The federal government has promoted its commitment to equity and inclusion for those with disabilities. However, these cuts will reduce access to reading materials, widening the gap for services and resources, and further compounding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a disproportionate impact on those with disabilities across Canada.

It is essential that this funding be fully restored immediately. On behalf of TPL customers with print disabilities, we urge that you restore full multi-year funding and commit to ongoing, stable funding so those with reading disabilities across Canada are not left further behind.

Thank you. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Graham-Nutter
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

Cc: Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)
National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS)

April 07, 2021

Mr. Adam Vaughan, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Vaughan,

On behalf of the Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board, I'm writing to express our gratitude for the federal government announcement that \$1 million in funding has been restored for the upcoming budget year 2021-2022, meaning there will not be cuts to funding for the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS), or their services for the upcoming year.

However, we urge the federal government to immediately restore sustained, multi-year full funding to these organizations. Public libraries across Canada rely on CELA and NNELS for the necessary reading materials for people with print disabilities including those with vision loss, learning disabilities and physical disabilities. TPL partners with CELA to provide additional accessible collections to customers with print disabilities and professionals who work with people with print disabilities.

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widening the gap for services and resources, and further compounding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a disproportionate impact on those with disabilities across Canada.

It is essential that this funding be fully restored immediately. On behalf of TPL customers with print disabilities, we request that you urge the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, the Hon. Carla Qualtrough, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Chrystia Freeland, to restore full multi-year funding and commit to ongoing, stable funding so those with reading disabilities across Canada are not left further behind.

Thank you. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Graham-Nutter
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

Cc: Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA)
 National Network for Equitable Library Services (NNELS)